- identification and sealing of unauthorized outlets and ensuring that there are no illegal discharges in Periyar;
- ensuring that the units are complying with environmental laws.

Household garbage from European nations

911. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is fast becoming a dumping ground for household garbage from the European nations;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that even though the Ministry had banned import of household garbage, an Irish company had managed to get an NOC from a Municipality in Gujarat and was exporting garbage to a Kalol based recycling plant near Mehsana; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations to find out how household garbage is illegally imported into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the reports received from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), a no objection certificate (NOC) was found to have been issued to M/s Well Pack Papers and Containers Limited, Kalol, Distt. Mehsana in Gujarat. However, after an inquiry by the vigilance cell of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, it was found that the NOC was not authentic. GPCB has, further, informed that the imported waste was not household garbage but mixed paper waste, which is allowed for recycling under EXIM policy.

Damage to Manas and Orang National Park by flood

912. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken, so far, by Government for the restoration of some portions of various National Parks and sanctuaries like Manas and Orang in Assam where heavy damage was caused due to devastating flood in the State, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) On the request of the State Government, funds have been released to the State of Assam during the current financial year (2004-05) as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of National Parks/Sanctuaries	Funds Released (in lakhs)
1.	Kaziranga National Park	134.10
2.	Orang National Park	13.00
3.	Manas National Park	158.75

(c) Does not arise.

Poor infrastructure for protection of forests

913. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that poor infrastructural facilities are the major factors of failure in protecting and preserving the forests in Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that such facilities are worst in Bodoland Territorial Areas District of Assam; and

(c) if so, Government's initiative to improve the facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inadequacy of infrastructural facilities is one important factor for the degradation of forests in various States including all areas of Assam.

(c) Government of India provides financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, primarily for strengthening of infrastructure in the State Forest Departments. Government of India has provided Rupees 14.57 crores during the last four years (2000-04). Rupees 200.00 lakhs have been released during 2004-05 upto 30.11.2004.